

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NSCE-00 SS-15 NSC-10 USPS-02 OC-06

CCO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 /060 W

----- 126720

R 030347Z AUG 73

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7787

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USLO PEKING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 7772

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR HK

SUBJ: APPARENT TAMPERING WITH US MAIL TO THE PRC

1. THE HKG POLITICAL ADVISOR'S OFFICE (POLAD) HAS INFORMED US THAT ON JULY 9 THE HK POSTAL ADMINISTRATION RECEIVED 446 AIR MAIL LETTERS ORIGINATING FROM THE US AND DESTINED FOR VARIOUS ADDRESSES IN THE PRC. THE LETTERS BORE POST MARKS AS EARLY AS DECEMBER 1972 AND WERE ALL DELAYED FOR LONG PERIODS IN TRANSIT BEFORE ARRIVING IN HONG KONG ON JULY 9. ALL ARRIVED INDIVIDUALLY AND SHOWED SIGNS OF HAVING BEEN OPENED AND RESEALED. ON JULY 10 THE HK POSTAL AUTHORITIES PLACED THE LETTERS IN ABAG AND FORWARDED THEM TO CANTON, TOGETHER WITH A LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE KWANGTUNG AUTHORITIES NOTING THAT THE LETTERS HAD ALL SUFFERED LONG DELAYS IN TRANSIT, BUT "BORE NO SECOND DATE STAMPS OR OTHER EVIDENCE" REGARDING MISCIRCULATION.

2. IN POLAD'S OPINION, THE FACT THAT THE LETTERS ALL ARRIVED IN HK AT ONE TIME INDICATES THAT THE TAMPERING OCCURED OUTSIDE THE COLONY, PERHAPS IN TAIWAN. CONGEN HAS HEARD OF OTHER INSTANCES WHERE LETTERS FROM NORTH AMERICA WERE OPENED AND ANTI-COMMUNIST STATEMENTS INSERTED BEFORE THEY WERE SENT ON TO CHINA. THIS MAY ALSO HAVE OCCURED IN THIS INSTANCE.

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EM NORMALLY MAIL FROM THE US ARRIVES IN HK IN SEALED BAGS
AND IS FORWARDED TO CANTON UNOPENED. THE DEPARTMENT MAY
WISH TO SUGGEST THAT US POSTAL AUTHORITIES ENCOURAGE THIS
PRACTICE FOR ALL MAIL LEAVING THE US FOR THE PRC.
DEAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POSTAL SERVICE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973HONGK07772
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730860/aaaabrvm.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Jul-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: APPARENT TAMPERING WITH US MAIL TO THE PRC
TAGS: PFOR, HK, US, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005